

## Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, January 25, 1792, from the Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

### DRAFT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR<sup>1</sup> J. MSS.

<sup>1</sup> Jefferson sent this to Washington, with a note:

“Jan. 25, 1792.

“Th: Jefferson presents his respects to the President of the U. S. and subjoins what he supposes might form a proper introduction to the statement prepared by the Secretary at War. The occasion is so new, that however short the letter proposed, he has no doubt it will need correction both as to the matter & manner.”

Washington submitted the draft to Hamilton, who commented as follows:

“Mr. Hamilton presents his respects to the President & submits the following Alterations in the letter—

“Instead of ‘I shall be glad’ to say ‘it is my desire’ or ‘it appears advisable’ that you prepare &c.

“Instead of ‘when our *Constituents* &c.’ say ‘When the Community are called upon for considerable exertions, to relieve a part, which is suffering under the hand of an enemy, it is desirable to manifest that due pains have been taken by those entrusted with the administration of their Affairs to avoid the evil.’

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“It is a doubt whether *our Constituents* be a proper phrase to be used by the President in addressing a subordinate officer.”

A written copy of the paper (D. S. MSS.) has all these changes embodied, written in pencil in Washington's handwriting.

[Jan 25, 1792.]

Sir, —As the circumstances which has engaged the U. S. in the present Indian war, may some of them be out of the public recollection, & others perhaps be unknown, I shall be glad if you will prepare & publish from authentic documents, a statement of these circumstances, as well as of the measures which have been taken from time to time for the establishment of peace & friendship.

When our constituents are called on for considerable exertions to relieve a part of their fellow-citizens suffering under the hand of an enemy, it is desireable for those interested with the administration of their affairs to communicate without reserve what they have done to ward off the evil.